

505 weekly to bring persons to the mainland. Most inhabitants
[491] over forty remember these Saturday ferry trips to Charleston
or to other islands to buy and sell their produce, arts
and crafts.

433 Historically, the islanders were self reliant. Rice,
indigo, and long staple cotton were resources that flourish-
ed well on the fertile soil, and brought substantial prices

[226] on the market. The ocean provided an abundant supply of
crab, fish and shrimp, and the children learned the art of

823 casting and netting at a very early age. Because most of
521 the islanders were fishermen, the ocean provided a topic
of interest and often evoked many natural responses ranging
from earliest childhood encounters to near death feats.

132 Few Europeans inhabited the islands because of the heat
164 and the threat of malaria. According to Nichols (1976:20),

177 an important factor in the low numbers of Europeans was their
136 susceptibility to the malaria-bearing mosquito which thrived in
the fresh-water swamplands. During the summer months and fall,
which constituted the malaria season, the landowners moved to
homes on the ocean or further inland. West Africans, on the
other hand, had a genetic tolerance for the malaria parasite.

175 During the period from 1730 to 1840, Blacks

161 outnumbered Whites by a substantial margin.

For example, in 1800 there were 2,150 Whites and 12,400

Blacks in Georgetown County. By 1840, the county con-
tained 2,200 Whites and 18,000 Blacks (Jackson et al.

197 1974:33). Thus a geographical isolation, social and econ-

197 omic independence, and marginal contact with speakers of
197 English outside the Creole community nurtured an environ-